

THE POCAHONTAS TIMES

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CALVIN W. PRICE, Editor.

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There is but one road to Buckeye, so when strange engineers come along and put up detour signs on that road it naturally raises the question how peremptory instructions can be carried out. One of these signs has been up at the fork of the road at the bridge since the work began making broad the path that leads to Hillsboro, and the voice of the steam shovel was heard in the land as the harbingers of spring. When they were working on the other side of the bridge, they put up a similar sign to detour and that is when we all got set on the word. That was the road to Edray, and it meant to take to the back road to Edray, and they deviated enough travel from the pike to make that road broad and plainly marked for years. Then it was that we all learned to be detourists. We had heard of detours for years. Parsons would return from wandering all over with a new set of tales of a traveler, commencing sometimes like this: "I saw the sign to detour but I kept right on and there is where I broke an axle." But when they make a path to your door and put up a detour sign then it is that you begin to take notice.

The first thing that struck me the other as a purist of the English language when they suggested that any one that wanted to reach Buckeye had better detour, was that it was not an apt word, for there seemed to be no way around. When a country is made up of real mountains and narrow valleys, sometimes there is but one way between two settlements, and that is a plenty except in times of war or turnpike construction. It amounted really to a sign that might be expressed as follows: "Buckeye is shut off from all success from the North." It is a live question at our house in these days of devastation and detonation, for the milkman lives beyond no man's land, but each day the milk comes through so far, and if he keeps up to the end of the improvement he will be entitled to a medal for heroism. As a farmer remarked the other day when he came to town: "If I had only set the milk in the ford when I left home it would have saved me the trouble of churning when I get back."

For a time I could not figure out any way to detour to Buckeye, but I finally remembered that there was a sort of road that led up Stony Creek, and from there to the top of Bucks Mountain and along the top a little ways, and then down Dry Creek to Swage and to Buckeye, but any person that goes that way had better start early in the morning. There was a time during the Civil War when the detour around Marlinton Bottom was about the most important question that presented itself to the mind of a general who had just about despaired of getting his army by the bridge head at this place to the comparatively safe country at Edray, only four miles to the north.

It was Gen. Averell, on his retreat from the Salem raid. He had been ordered to make a sacrifice hit at the Confederate stores at Salem, Virginia and had an army of 2500 men. To destroy the property of the Confederate army was the objective of the raid, and Averell was to take his chances of getting out. Averell was policing West Virginia, and this was a little extra work. To throw a spear head into the body of the Confederate forces and destroy their winter supplies, appealed to his head quarters. Averell was in Hampshire county, and he had been making sweeps to the southern part of the Western Waters, all that year of 1863 and it occurred to some master of strategy that if quick moving mountain force could be sent into the southern part of the Valley of Virginia and destroy the provisions there stored for the Confederate army that it would be a great stroke for the Union cause, and even if the little army was killed or captured, it would be good use to be made of a pawn.

I have come to the conclusion that of all the instances of peril and privation that marked the great conflict Averell's good horsemanship in extricating his army from the heart of the Confederate forces, and the courage and endurance of his troops was the most notable and heroic feat so far as that I have ever heard of in this or any other war. Historians have ignored it practically. There was no press agent at the time, and all the publicity it got was from the Richmond papers and that was the ridicule heaped on the management of the Confederate forces, when no less than seven Confederate armies allowed the one little Union army to cut through their lines and reach the rear, destroy a couple hundred thousand bushels of grain, and other stores, tear up a railroad, and play hob generally with the wintering for the Confederate troops. One Richmond paper called it, "The reign of major-generals and military science."

The point of the newspapers observers made was that disaster came so narrowly upon them, that a plan could not be evolved by the commander in chief but that it was left to the genius of each general to so manage his troops that he could protect the stores, or at least capture the troops that had hurled themselves so recklessly into the strongholds of their enemies. The editorial comment of the Richmond papers was to the effect that Averell was so thoroughly surrounded that some ass suggested to the council that the only possible way for the Yankee to escape was to jump down a well. Whereupon Gen. Early issued orders that the gate be left open and that the well be guarded. And this same paper mourned over the fact that in the pursuit that Gen. Early had lost his hat. Averell made his official report immediately on his return to his headquarters in the northern tier of counties. In that report he says that when he was hemmed in he came to

the conclusion that if he left the traveled roads he might get through. "If I could cross the Greenbrier and reach Marlinton before the enemy my command would be safe."

He tells how he reached the Greenbrier by an obscure road and crossed it on the 21st and lay at Hillsboro that night.

We local people know something about that. The time was December. There had been a big rain and the weather had turned to snow and then to hard freezing. The roads were a glare of ice. It was the worst possible combination of weather for a starving army. Alvin Clark, my wife's father, was captured by the army and with them for three days. He said that the Greenbrier River was even with the top of the banks, and that seems a very difficult and dangerous crossing on a bitter cold day. It would have been all out impossible for any other than toughened American soldiers. It is doubtful whether the army had any dry powder left after they reached the west bank, but they brought everything with them. They had some field artillery and the horses had become so tired that the mounted soldiers dragged these big guns. They say that when the army appeared in the Levels that they did not come by any road particularly. They swarmed up the side of the river ridge and broke over into the cleared level fields with a front sever all miles wide. The soldiers were all but starving. They had been marching through a country that was thoroughly invested by Confederate troops and after leaving Covington they had followed trails through the wilderness and the Levels was the first country they had seen for days affording food and shelter.

It was the one raid into the Levels that took the citizens of that section wholly by surprise. It was almost like a raid of Indians in the winter time, or as it was sometimes called Indian summer. No well regulated army was supposed to be traveling through these mountain ranges at Christmas time, any more than you would expect to see an automobile tourist in the winter time in these parts. But there was not much to eat there, for 1863 was the year when the country was full of marching soldiers on both sides, culminating in the great battle of Deep Mountain on the 8th of November. So most of the winter provisions were well hid out. That was the year that the lady of the house hid the old family mule so well neither she nor anybody else could find it, until the mule considered it safe to call out. But what was found was eaten, though there seems to have been wonderful discipline in regard to taking food by force, as there was one case at least of an officer shooting a private who would not leave some bacon alone that the housewife insisted on keeping. At one farmhouse they took all the food that they could find and eat that and then eat the contents of a swill barrel that was getting ripe for swine.

Every man and boy that they could find they arrested. The old Academy building was set apart for the prisoners and they lay on the floor and the building was jammed and crowded with them. The soldiers were desperate and weary, but there was great vigilance and discipline maintained. Averell had all the citizens that he could capture before him and his one question was: "Is there any road to Edray so as to miss Marlinton Bottom?" and no man could tell him of any way. It was a matter of the utmost importance. Hillsboro was in the Confederacy. Edray, fifteen miles north was in the Union. The elections still exemplify this fact. What Averell wanted was to detour and there was no way to detour, and needs must when the devil drives, and the next morning he was on his way, and marched that day fifteen miles along the road and camped at Edray. His report says: "On my way to Edray, my rear guard experienced some trifling attacks on the 22nd." This referred to some very, very distant shots from the brush, where some bushwhacker hung on the flanks of the army.

At Edray, the discipline was relaxed. No particular attention was paid to the prisoners, and most of them quietly withdrew in the nighttime, and the next morning, the rest of them were told to go home. Alvin Clark said that he debated with some of his neighbors as to whether they ought to impose further upon the hospitality of the army or not, but that he decided to stick it out. And the next morning he went in to call on the general, who had spent the night in the brick house which formerly stood where W. M. Sharp's house is located. The thing that impressed him most was the boyish appearance of the commander. Averell had by that time become a household word in the mountains of West Virginia, and had the reputation of a most powerful and effective war lord. And he looked like a boy. Mr. Clark said that he inquired of him as to what he was doing and how he was situated and was very pleasant in his manner and conversation, and told the prisoner that as it appeared that his family had more need of him than the Union army that he could go home.

The odyssey of this great expedition is a story of a march of four hundred miles in seventeen days, from New Creek to Beverly by way of Salem, in the winter time. The first two days were spent in reaching Petersburg, during which time the shoeing of horses went on, as there had not been time to get the army ready for the march. The plan that was so quickly made after the orders came sent a force towards Kanawha to make a demonstration, and another into the Valley towards Staunton, and these detachments succeeded in diverting the Confederate forces from the main object of the campaign, which was the raid on the military depot at Salem.

December 8 and 9, 1863, spent in reaching Petersburg. On the 11th the army arrived near Monterey. On the 12th, a heavy rain, and that day the army marched down Back Creek. At Mountain Grove, a skirmish with Gen. Jackson flying from Col. Moor who was moving on the west bank. On the 14th, Jackson River was

reached, and the rain having continued, the river was deep fording. Halted a few hours on the evening of the 14th, then broke camp and during the night went up the road that follows Dunlaps Creek, and about two in the morning reached the junction of the Sweet Springs and White Sulphur roads at the Crow Tavern. Reached Sweet Springs about 10 a. m., and halted a few hours and found plenty of forage there. Left Sweet Springs at 1 p. m. on the 15th, and marched until within twelve miles of Newcastle, where a halt for a few hours was made to extend rest. Newcastle was passed in the night, and on the morning of the 16th heard the locomotive whistles at Salem, and that was the day the stores and other property was destroyed, the soldiers engaged for about six hours. On the night of the 16th came the heavy rain that played such a great part in the expedition. The army was ready on its return. They completed the work of destruction at 4 p. m. and marched seven miles on the return trip. For five days there had been little sleep for the soldiers. The last eighty miles had been made in thirty hours. A whole night was taken for rest. On the 17th it rained all day and all night and the army had trouble with Craigs Creek, which was so high that it uprooted great trees and carried them away. Drenched, muddy, and hungry, the command reached Newcastle, about sundown on the 18th. Left Newcastle at 9 p. m. and took the road towards Sweet Springs and marched to the junction of that road and the Fincastle road, and here camp fires were built, and after a time left burning and a march of thirty miles northeast made to the Covington and Fincastle pike, fifteen miles from the bridge. This at noon on the 19th. Marched on to the bridge and had a fight with Confederate troops. Reached the first bridge five miles below Covington on Jackson River at 9 p. m. on the 19th. And crossed the bridge at Covington soon after, and a running fight was had along here in which the Union force lost 119 men and five officers. The army concentrated at Callahans. This is the point that the fortunes of the retreating army seemed most hopeless. The country in Monroe and Greenbrier Counties was strongly held against them. They knew of an army at Mountain Grove. The road up Antonsy Creek to Huntersville, was not open. Then it was that Averell made the most famous detour that was ever heard of. All he knew about it by his official report was that he reached Hillsboro by an "obscure road" by the evening of the 21st. With all the other dates carefully fixed in his memory, all that he knows of the 20th was that he left Callahans on that date and crossed the Greenbrier River on the 21st. It had turned cold, and the streams were still high. He must have followed some trail of some sort for he brought his artillery through and across the Greenbrier where there was no bridge at a bad ford, when the river was too high to be crossed. That country between the mouth of Spies Run and Callahans is still in a state of wildness, and it would be interesting to go there and see just how that army got through in the winter weather, and arrived in the Levels in a condition in which they were fain to fill their bellies with the swill that the swine did eat, and almost perishing from hunger and cold. It can be accounted for only on the theory that these soldiers were in the very best condition physically and that they had the fierce determination to win through and nothing could stop them. The chances of a single man living to swim the Greenbrier at such a stage on such a day are rather slim, but maybe a whole army plunging into it together could overcome the rush of the icy current and bring them out on the other side.

On the 22nd the march was made through Hillsboro and Edray to safety. Fifteen miles that day. The 23rd and 24th were taken for the fifty three miles to Beverly over roads glazed with ice, the men dismounting and pulling the artillery by hand. And so they got back with all equipment, and reached Martinsburg by the 27th, in time to go into action there. The government rewarded them by giving each soldier a new suit and a pair of shoes. For endurance, courage, strength, and pluck this experience of an army of twenty-five hundred is perhaps without parallel. These captains courageous, whom death could not daunt. Why much was not made of him, is hard to figure out, for as compared to the ride of Sheridan coming along on the Valley Pike on his stalled horse, the work of the twenty-five hundred who split the Confederacy wide open in the face of the resistance of the forces of men and nature seems that of supermen. I have found some evidence lately that throws light on some of the troubles of Averell. He seems to have had a career of universal success in the field and to have suffered from bureau politics. His Fourth Brigade was created in March 28, 1863 and given over to Gen. Roberts, the general who made "war on women and children." His policy was to make every sympathizer with the Confederacy to leave home. And he had trouble. It was about the time that our first families took to refugeing. Here is an example of his mistaken policy. He might have the old folks out of their house and home because they had a son in the Confederate army, to find out later that these same parents had four other sons in the Union army. So he lasted until May and Averell was ordered to find him and fire him. And in 1864, Averell was as summarily removed by a peremptory order of Gen. Sheridan. And Averell hits back and accuses his superior officer with hunting pretenses to make a place for another general, and shows that he is rankling under a sense of injustice and outrage. And the more so as it came at a time when his success at Moorefield had led him to believe that he was to be rewarded and not punished.

The bench-warmers got him. FOR SALE - 43-A-1 mountain ewes. If interested write. C. H. RIVERCOMB, Covington, Va.

After Every Meal WRIGLEYS Top off each meal with a bit of sweet in the form of WRIGLEYS. It satisfies the sweet tooth and aids digestion. Pleasure and benefit combined. FOR THE CHILDREN

A share of your business solicited T. S. McNEEL INSURANCE AND BONDS Marlinton W. Va. Successor of Goodsell Insurance Agency Life, Fire and Accident, Automobiles and Live Stock, Bonds of all kinds, Money to Loan on Farms. Office 2nd floor, First National Bank Building.

Notice to Contractors Sealed proposals will be received by the State Road Commission of West Virginia at its office in Charleston, W. Va., until 10 o'clock a. m. on the First day of May, 1923, and opened and read immediately thereafter, at the Kanawha County Court House, Charleston, W. Va., for the surface treatment of the following section of State road: Projects 79-A and 1068, Pocahontas County, 3.5 miles for cleaning and tar cold surface application including cover coat. Certified check \$500.00. Proposals will be received only on State Standard forms, in accordance with plans, specifications and estimate of quantities therefor, which standard forms, plans, specifications and estimate of quantities may be obtained from the Division Engineer at Fayetteville, W. Va., or from the office of the State Road Commission at Charleston, W. Va. Each proposal must be accompanied by a certified check in the amount above specified. The right is reserved to reject any and all proposals. THE STATE ROAD COMMISSION OF WEST VA. E. B. Carskadon, Secretary.

\$3,000 Valuable Farm for Sale Seventy acres, 5 miles from County Seat, Marlinton, W. Va., hard surface road out to farm. Joins 2 room graded school building, quarter of a mile to church. 30 acres in good state of cultivation, balance in pasture and woodland; good 8-room dwelling and outbuildings, 12x16, cement cellar, good well at house, cement curb. Farm watered by running streams. Orchard of 60 improved apple trees, about 1.2 acres of raspberries, 20 large bushes of currants. Can give good terms of settlement to purchaser. If interested, call or write Mrs. ALLIE LANDIS, Marlinton, W. Va.

Estray Sheep A buck sheep has been at Welford place at Warwick since about the last of October. Owner can have property by proving it and paying cost keep and advertising. O. S. Welford, Adv. \$1.00 Warwick, W. Va.

Executor's Sale The undersigned, executor, will on the 25th day of April, 1923, commencing at Ten O'clock, A. M. at the residence of the late Joseph H. Wilson, in Pocahontas County, West Virginia, sell the following personal property: One horse, two cows, one plow, and one fork. Terms of sale - All sums under ten dollars cash, and on larger sums, a credit of four months will be given, the purchaser giving notes well endorsed. L. M. McClintic, Executor of Joseph H. Wilson, deceased.

FOR SALE - About one acre of land with good 7 room house, cement cellar, barn, chicken house and garage, in the town of Clover Lick, W. Va., near the large saw mill of A. D. Neill & Son Co. Has a large garden and 15 improved fruit trees just coming into bearing. Will sell reasonable if sold quick, a fine home for any one who wants to follow public works. W. A. HIVE, Dunmore, W. Va.

LOST - License plate number 14455 under get reward at Times office.

LOCUST POSTS - Good locust posts for sale, delivered at Marlinton. Apply to FRED BEFNER, Buckeye, W. Va.

PIGS FOR SALE - Booking order for Duroc Jersey, male pigs, farrowed March 18, 1923. Registered in purchasers name. Good type. Orders must be at hand, by April 30. Write quickly. CLARENCE MAY, Beard, W. Va.

Money to Loan at 5-1-2 percent The Pocahontas County Farm Loan Association of Marlinton, Pocahontas County, West Virginia, has money to loan to farmers on farm-land, on easy terms. Call on the undersigned and fill out an application blank. P. T. WARD, Sec.-Treas.

IF IT'S INSURANCE YOU WANT. SEE F. M. SYDNOR, Manager HUNTER & ECHOLS INSURANCE AGENCY INC. Marlinton, West Virginia.

Trustee's Sale of Farm Pursuant to authority vested in us by four deeds of trust, the first dated June 4, 1918, executed to Andrew Price, Trustee, by Roy Houckin and Carrie Houckin, his wife, of record in the office of the Clerk of the County Court of Pocahontas County, West Virginia, the trust deed book Number 10, page 476, to secure the Bank of Marlinton; the second from the same grantors to the same trustee to secure the same bank, of record in said office in trust deed book No. 12, page 151; and the third from the same grantors to the same trustee to secure P. T. Ward, of record in the said office in trust deed book Number 12, at page 164, and the fourth from the same grantors to L. M. McClintic, Trustee, of record in said office in trust deed book No. 12, at page 200 to secure F. R. Hill; we will proceed to sell at public auction to the highest bidder, on Saturday, May 12, 1923, commencing at 10 a. m. at the front door of the Court House of said county, in the town of Marlinton, a tract of land situated in said county, near Thornwood, known as the Roy Houckin farm, the part now offered for sale containing 73 acres, more or less, being the part remaining in the possession of the said Roy Houckin and Carrie Houckin, being a tract of 139 acres, less 22 acres conveyed to Nellie Vandevender, see deed book 56, at page 153, and 44 acres to Abel Hedrick, see deed book 56, page 164; said land is partly improved and has on it a dwelling house and other improvements. Terms of Sale: CASH. ANDREW PRICE, Trustee. L. M. McCLINTIC, Trustee.

Valuable Farm for Sale The home place of G. S. Welford, at Warwick, W. Va., consisting 146 acres of good land; about 50 acres in cultivation, about 30 acres of woodland; balance good pasture land. On this property is 2 good dwellings, a store building and numerous out buildings and barns. Well watered, four orchards of improved fruit, near church and schools, and in good neighborhood. Will sell as a whole or will divide it to suit purchasers, on hard road, five miles from Marlinton, and would make a fine home for any one; especially adapted to fruit growing. This property will be sold to the first person offering the appraised price. One third cash, balance in equal installments payable in one and two years. For further particulars write or see O. S. Welford, Warwick, W. Va., or L. M. McNeill, Attorney, Marlinton, W. Va. D. N. WEIFORD, Exec.

Bees For Sale Full blood Italian bees, colonies in patent hives. Free from disease. \$8.50 per colony, delivered to express office. A. E. MOORE, Marlinton, W. Va.

Bark to Peel I want to contract the cutting and peeling of 2,000,000 feet spruce and hemlock, reliable parties wanted. Also two teams for sale 5 and 7 yrs old weight 2,800 and 2,900 lbs good farm or log horses, reason for selling too many horses. Apply to CLIFF SHARP, Huntersville, W. Va.

FOR SALE OR RENT 73 acres of grazing land, mostly all in sod, and all under fence, lying in Levels District on public road adjoining the farm of L. B. Shrader and others. Anyone looking for a good grazing place will do well to see me. Will give good terms on same and possession will be given the first of April, 1923. R. C. SHRADER, Huntersville, W. Va.

Fiduciary Notice Notice is hereby given that the final settlements of the accounts of W. J. Yeager, administrator of the estate of the late Peter D. Yeager, is before the undersigned Commissioner of Accounts of Pocahontas County, W. Va. T. S. McNEEL, Comr.

Man Wanted An allround carriage man to work on hand mill of the Marlinton Lumber Company Apply to H. A. OVERHOLT, Marlinton, W. Va. FOR RENT Boarding house at Raywood, W. Va. For particulars apply to. Warm Lumber Corp., Raywood, W. Va.

N. M. LOCKRIDGE, Attorney at Law, Huntersville, W. Va. Prompt and careful attention given to all legal work. A. F. EDGAR, Attorney-at-Law, Marlinton, W. Va. Courts: Pocahontas and the 4 counties and the Supreme Court of Appeals.

RAYMOND HILL, Attorney-at-Law, Marlinton, W. Va. Will practice in the courts of Pocahontas and adjoining counties, and in the Court of Appeals of the State of West Virginia. ANDREW PRICE, Attorney-at-Law, Marlinton, W. Va. W. A. BRATTON, Attorney-at-Law, Marlinton, W. Va. Prompt and careful attention given to all legal business. R. C. McNEEL, Attorney-at-Law, Marlinton, W. Va. Will practice in the courts of Pocahontas and adjoining counties, and in the Court of Appeals of the State of West Virginia. L. M. McCLINTIC, Attorney-at-Law, Marlinton, W. Va. Will practice in the court of Pocahontas and adjoining counties, and in the Supreme Court of Appeals.

Building Material Yellow pine, floor and ceiling, popular siding, casings and trimmings for inside and out. Door and window frames made to order, also dimension work. R. S. JORDAN, Marlinton, W. Va. COAL is Cash I can now fill orders for coal for strictly cash. WISE HEROLD DELCO-LIGHT "Electricity for every Farm" Write or phone for Catalogue ACCESSORIES and SUPPLIES Marlinton Electric Co. DEALERS

Farm for Sale About 212 acres on the Staunton & Parkersburg Turnpike 5 miles east of Bartow. About 40 acres improved, 30 acres in good timber, balance was cut over several years ago and has nice young timber on it. Good 7 room dwelling, some out building, orchard of apples, peaches, pears and cherry trees, large enough to bear some small fruit. 1.2 mile from school 3 miles from church, several good springs. This is good mountain farming land and is fine price land. Price and terms reasonable. CHARLES SPENCER, Bartow, W. Va.

Baby Chicks Owing to the early drop in egg prices, we have reduced prices on baby chicks to the following prices: White Leghorns \$13 and \$15 per 100. Rhode Island Reds and Plymouth Rocks \$14 and \$16 per 100. Hatching eggs, 1.50 a setting or 2.20 for 2 settings. Place your order now and be sure of chicks on date desired. Oak Crest Poultry Farm, Mill Point, W. Va.

Z. S. Smith Undertaker and Funeral Director LICENSED EMBALMER MARLINTON, W. VA.

Baxter's Garage MARLINTON W. VA. FORD Cars and Supplies FORDSON Tractors A full line of Ford products and supplies always in stock. I. L. BAXTER, Propr.

Chiropractic Dr. F. V. LONERGAN has located in Marlinton for the practice of Chiropractic. Offices at the home of A. C. Bostic, on Camden Avenue, near the Marlinton Hotel, where he can be found at all times.

For Sale 20 HP Frick sawmill boiler and engine complete. Good 60 Diston saw, Cutoff saw, lot light steel rail, 14th mill, one lumber truck. Nixop & Pritchard, Dunmore, W. Va. We handle Grit, Oyster Shells, Charcoal, Chick Food, Etc. Marlinton Poultry Yard Marlinton, W. Va.